

## Message Text

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TAGS:PFOR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF APRIL 26 NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL ON  
U.S. POLICY TOWARD TURKEY AND GREECE TITLED "WALKING THE  
GREEK-TURKISH TIGHTROPE" BEGIN TEXT.

1. TURKEY DESERVES NO TRIBUTE FOR ITS MISGUIDED OCCUPATION  
OF NORTHERN CYPRUS SINCE 1974. THE QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER  
IT CAN BE PERSUADED TO PULL BACK, THEN EVACUATE ITS FORCES  
TO PERMIT A FAIR DIVISION OF THE ISLAND BETWEEN GREEK AND  
TURKISH CYPRIOTS SO THAT PEACE CAN BE RESTORED WITHOUT FUR-  
THER DAMAGE TO BOTH ALLIED AND AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING  
TO STEER AN INTELLIGENT MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD COURSE THROUGH  
THE CONFLICT BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AND MERITS THE SUP-  
PORT OF CONGRESS.

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2. CONGRESS ITSELF PULLED BACK TWO YEARS AGO FROM ITS DIS-  
ASTROUS ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY, A NATO ALLY AND THE  
SITE OF 26 AMERICAN MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE FACILITIES,  
SEVERAL OF WHICH HAD BEEN CLOSED--AND STILL ARE--IN RETAL-  
IATION AGAINST THE EMBARGO. SO SOME ARMS SHIPMENTS WERE  
AUTHORIZED TO AVOID A DANGEROUS DETERIORATION OF TURKISH

FORCES AND TO KEEP AMERICAN INFLUENCE ALIVE IN THE CYPRUS TALKS.

3. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR MORE VIGOROUS NEGOTIATIONS. THE PRESIDENT HAS ALSO SERVED NOTICE THAT HE WILL WAIT FOR PROGRESS ON CYPRUS BEFORE ASKING CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE FOUR-YEAR, DOLS 1 BILLION AGREEMENT ON BASES AND AID TO TURKEY SIGNED BY FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER. MR. KISSINGER REFUSED TO LINK THE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE PACT, WHICH THE TURKS EAGERLY WANT, BUT MR. CARTER RIGHTLY SEES IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LEVERAGE.

4. BUT HE ALSO WANTS TO ENHANCE HIS STANDING IN ANKARA AND TO KEEP ANTI-AMERICANISM FROM BECOMING A MAJOR ISSUE IN THE JUNE 5 TURKISH ELECTIONS. HE HOPES THAT THOSE ELECTIONS WILL PRODUCE A GOVERNMENT STABLE ENOUGH TO MAKE THE NECESSARY CONCESSIONS IN CYPRUS. IN PURSUIT OF THESE OBJECTIVES, THE PRESIDENT PROPOSES TWO CHANGES IN THE LIMITS ON ANNUAL CREDIT SALES OF ARMS TO TURKEY. ONE WOULD RAISE THE CEILING ON SUCH SALES FROM THE DOLS 125 MILLION IN EFFECT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS TO DOLS 175 MILLION--NOT A BIG INCREASE IN LIGHT OF INFLATION. THE SECOND WOULD AUTHORIZE THE TURKS TO USE SOME OF THESE CREDITS AND CASH SUPPLEMENTS TO PURCHASE 40 F-4 PHANTOM FIGHTERS BEFORE THE PRODUCTION LINE CLOSES DOWN. GREECE IS ALSO GETTING PHANTOMS AND MUCH LARGER QUANTITIES OF OTHER ARMS UNDER MORE FAVORABLE MILITARY ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS. NATO WANTS THE ALLIES TO HAVE PHANTOMS.

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5. ALL IN ALL, THE ADMINISTRATION IS WALKING THE GREEK-TURKISH TIGHTROPE WITH CONSIDERABLE SKILL. CONGRESS SHOULD HELP THE PRESIDENT TO KEEP HIS BALANCE. END TEXT.

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